

NI No. 1930-77

3 August 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Board of Directors of
the Associated Press, 1 August 1977

PLACE: Katherine Graham's Residence,
2920 R Street, N.W.

1. After getting DCI's approval, I went to meet with the Board of Directors of the Associated Press. They are going to China at the end of August for a few weeks visit at the invitation of the New China News Agency. Keith Fuller, head of AP, was the leading spokesman for the group. Mr. Bacardi, a publisher, was present as was Katherine Graham and several other Board members and their wives.

2. I gave the group a batch of background material, all unclassified, which included a book on China and America published by the Council on Foreign Relations this year, our own CIA Atlas, Nagel's Guide Book, numerous biographies, updated charts of Chinese Communist organizations and a compilation of published Chinese statements on various matters. I pointed out that I would not deal with Sino-US relations or major foreign policy issues. I suggested they raise these with Mr. Oksenberg of the NSC. I concentrated on recent internal political developments, the Teng and Hua rivalry, the economy, the status of education, and recent events of historical significance. (I have detailed notes on the points I made.) The group asked many questions and the session lasted three hours. I interspersed numerous comments on the Chinese line they would get and how I thought it could be handled. I also made suggestions on how to get beyond the propaganda line.

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3. I told Mrs. Graham I would send her some copies of NCNA studies and a profile on Chinese women. The group was having dinner with Henry and Nancy Kissinger that night and was going to see Oksenberg the next day. They said they were not going to see anyone from State. I did inform State Department of this briefing. State knew nothing about it and appreciated my effort to keep them informed.

4. I have a sense that the meeting was satisfactory from their point of view. I extended Admiral Turner's invitation and they thanked me but did not make any commitments. I requested them not to quote me and consider the briefing a deep backgrounder.


James K. Lilley

National Intelligence Officer
for China

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